

Coastal Montessori Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, January 22 ~ 6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

The following members of the Board were present:

Patricia Gadek, Gene Mannella, Cathy Scott, Lesley Steedly, Scott Steffen,

The following Board members were absent:

Ryan Fabbri, Stella Mercado, and Rachel Tomovski

Also in attendance:

Dr. Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Director

Emily Topper, Coastal Observer

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Dr. Cathy Scott called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

COMPLIANCE WITH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

Chair, Dr. Scott read aloud the FOIA statement.

READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Gene Mannella read aloud the CMCS mission statement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Danielle and Don Tempalsky addressed board for an update on having an SRO officer at the school. He reminded the Board that CMCS is the only public school in the county without one. Dr. Scott made note that it is on the agenda for discussion in the school's new MOA with GCSD, and Dr. Hunt confirmed that she would be asking for a meeting date with district representatives. Mr. Mannella explained that it was not financially feasible for the school to hire an SRO at this time. Mr. Tempalsky inquired about a contract SRO to serve on rotation, and the board agreed to ask the district about this option, but reiterated that the present budget does not allow for further spending at this time.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER MINUTES AND THE AGENDA

Mr. Mannella made a motion to accept both December's Minutes and the January Agenda. Mr. Steffen seconded the motion. The Board VOTED unanimously to approve both the Minutes and the Agenda, and the motion passed.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Annual report: Dr. Hunt shared the annual report with the board. The school achieved performance goals for lower elementary group, but not the upper elementary students. The differences between subgroups of students were not significant, which is a positive sign. Data demonstrate that students in their sixth year with the school showed more growth, which is

expected in the Montessori curriculum. This year students will complete the California Cognitive Thinking Skills Test for 6th year of operation.

Lottery results: 32 students were admitted to the 2018-2019 first grade, with more students on the waitlist. This year 18 siblings received preference per charter guidelines, which creates a challenge with diversity – the sibling groups were predominately Caucasian, non-Hispanic families.

Mr. Mannella asked about the impact of sibling preference on enrollment and encouraging folks to apply for the lottery. Dr. Hunt explained that the school has to sell the process and increase understanding/awareness of the lottery method. She noted that this is a family school, which is important for sibling preference.

Testing: Georgetown County School District will give the SC Ready tests in the paper/pencil format for 3rd grade English Language Arts and Math. The school will be notified of specific days for SC Ready Teaching.

The SC PASS test for Social Studies will be administered online in grades 5 and 7.

The SC PASS test for Science will be administered online in grades 4, 6, and 8.

All test will be given in the last thirty days of school.

Spring to-do: Dr. Hunt will be working on the following items over the spring semester:

- Updating the MOA with Georgetown County Schools.
- Updating the school charter
- Updating Employee handbook and progressive discipline for staff
- Attending Lander's career fair
- Prepare for AdvancEd
- Prepare for state testing
- Prepare building for summer

BUDGET REPORT

The board discussed the budget for next year – Additional students coming in for the eighth grade will provide more finances to the school. The school would like to have more than a part-time counselor and more than one building manager, but the board notes that the school finances are not in a position at this time to do so.

Mr. Mannella recommended using the LGIP shared by Mr. Fabbri in the previous meeting, subject to Mr. Fabbri provide additional information to the board based on his past experience with LGIP. Mr. Mannella discussed concern that those funds are not insured, but are invested in state municipal securities and other lower-risk securities.

In the MOA meeting, the school will also discuss the use of Georgetown County Bond Referendum money to complete small facilities projects and to support the request of an SRO, if allowed.

Mr. Mannella shared that the budget is on target for the year, and that when CMCS receives the additional funding related to the 135 and 180 day adjustment, it is expected that the actual results vs. budget will be slightly positive. Dr. Hunt noted that the team would need to look at the budget for consideration for substitute teachers and certain maintenance and repairs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Mannella moved that the Board go into Executive Session. Mr. Steffen seconded the motion and the Board VOTED unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 6:36 PM. Ms. Topper excused herself. Dr. Hunt was invited to stay.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Ms. Gadek moved that the Board return to Open Session. Mr. Steffen seconded the motion and the Board VOTED unanimously to return to Open Session at 6:52 PM.

ITEM TO VOTE ON

Mr. Steffen moved that Dr. Hunt's request to provide raises for the office and operations managers effective January 1, 2018 be granted. Mr. Mannella seconded the motion. The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the raises.

OTHER ITEMS

Chair, Dr. Scott reported that the board would discuss teacher feedback on the mid-year survey at the next board meeting. She also requested that the group review materials on the Solar Ambassador project, which would allow the school to install solar panels on the premises. Mr. Steffen requested that the materials related to the Solar project be reviewed to ensure liability risks and any impact on the school building's warranties.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to be transacted, Mr. Mannella moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Steffen seconded. The Board VOTED unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Scott
CMCS Board Chair